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Agenda item 53 (a)
Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Ukraine: draft resolution

Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, by which it proclaimed 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, its resolution 58/217 of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed that the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, would commence on World Water Day, 22 March 2005, and its resolution 59/228, by which it decided to consider the future arrangements for the review of the implementation of the Decade for Action,

Emphasizing that water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human health and well-being,

Recalling the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session[4] relating to freshwater,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

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Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals on water and sanitation, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and determined to achieve the goal to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, and the goals set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation as well as to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 7/22 of 28 March 2008, on human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation,[6]

Taking note of the Istanbul Declaration of Heads of State on Water, adopted at the Fifth World Water Forum, held from 16 to 22 March 2009, the Istanbul ministerial statement[7] and the Istanbul Water Guide, which include numerous recommendations for concrete action to improve water security and water management at all levels; the Message from Beppu, adopted at the first Asia-Pacific Water Forum, held in Beppu, Japan, on 3 and 4 December 2007; and the appeal and recommendations, adopted at the International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins, held in Dushanbe from 30 May to 1 June 2005,

Taking note with appreciation of the contribution made by the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation and its work on the Hashimoto Action Plan: Compendium of Actions,[8] a compendium of water-related actions that relevant actors should consider, as appropriate,

Noting that the Sixth World Water Forum will be held in Marseille in 2012,

Taking note of the activities of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, and the organizations of the United Nations system, through their coordination mechanism, and looking forward to their contribution to the mobilization of efforts and resources towards the implementation of the commitments, goals and targets agreed upon in those areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[9] and of the first, second and third editions of the World Water Development Report;

2. *Welcomes* the activities related to freshwater undertaken by Member States, the United Nations Secretariat and the organizations of the United Nations system, inter alia, through inter-agency work, as well as contributions from major groups for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, and the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system, through their coordination mechanism, and major groups to continue their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals contained in Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[2] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[3]

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[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II.A.

[7] A/63/852, annex.

[8] A/C.2/61/4, annex I.

[9] A/59/167.

4. *Welcomes* the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth, thirteenth and sixteenth sessions and looks forward to the furthering of the activities of the Commission on the thematic cluster of issues on water and sanitation;

5. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraph 9 of its resolution 59/228, to convene, in the city of Dushanbe, preferably in June 2010, a high-level international conference on the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and of the internationally agreed water-related goals;

6. *Also decides* that, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, the midterm comprehensive review should assess the progress made in the implementation of the first half of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and in the implementation of the internationally agreed water-related goals; share best practices and lessons learned; and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them;

7. *Further decides* to commence the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive review during the present session of the General Assembly and, to this end, invites the President of the Assembly to hold intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of all Member States, on the issues related to the conference, and decides that these consultations must be open, inclusive and transparent and that they should lead to the identification of the modalities and the organization of the work of the conference by 22 March 2010;

8. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level dialogue of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York on 22 March 2010, World Water Day, with the participation of representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil societies and the private sector, on the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and the realization of the internationally agreed water-related goals;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Decade at all levels and emphasizes the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive review and to the implementation of and the follow-up to its outcome and, in this context, calls upon Member States to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and on the realization of the internationally agreed water-related goals, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary for its further implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the high-level international conference;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions in organizing the activities of the second half of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, taking into account the results of the International Year of Freshwater and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth, thirteenth and sixteenth sessions;

12. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system to step up

their efforts to deliver a coordinated response in order to make the Decade a decade of delivering promises through the use of existing resources and voluntary funds;

13. *Notes with interest* the partnership initiatives on water and sanitation undertaken within the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in the follow-up to the Summit and in accordance with the criteria and guidelines adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session;[10]

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the activities planned by the Secretary-General and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the Decade.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29).